

## Rachel Tibbetts

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**From:** Bernadette Owens  
**Sent:** 26 January 2021 09:30  
**To:** DC Support  
**Subject:** 20/03630/DISC - Land Adj To Promised Land Farm, Wendlebury Road, Chesterton

Hi Linda

Happy New Year. Hope you are well.

A substantial amount of native structural vegetation is about to be removed for the frontage of Wendlebury Road for the benefit of highway visibility, roundabout and road realignment and widening. This will expose the site, its construction impacts, operational and physical impacts of large car park and buildings where once there was an attractive country lane. The mixed native thicket will require a 1 m wide wildflower strip between the paths and the thicket which will occasionally be mown along with irregular groups of native trees. The beech hedge on the carpark side will not establish successfully in the heavy moisture retentive soils. I recommend it replaced with the similar Hornbeam, *Carpinus betulus* which will establish more successfully in this soil. This frontage planting should be implemented at the earliest opportunity during the current planting season with appropriate landscape maintenance to aid its establishment and facilitate growth, whilst site clearance and construction proceeds. This will provide some benefit yes, but also reassurances that the construction/operational and visual impacts are being addressed at the earliest opportunity. I would also request that the coppicing regime does not apply to the native thick planting on Wendlebury Road for obvious reasons.

The potential 'heat island' effect and the harmful visual impact of such a large car park must be addressed for the benefit of onsite users. Additional, climate enhancing, trees should be planted in the car park where space, services and parking bay numbers allow. It has been established that groups of trees sharing the same larger volume tree pit establish and perform better than single trees in isolated tree pits. I would prefer to see larger treed areas protected by knee rail and understory planting. All trees are to be supplied, handling, planted and established in accordance with the current British Standard BS 8545: 2014. The *Pyrus calleryana* 'Chanticleer' are generally ubiquitous; they are prone to ugly, wound healing deformations to the main stem. Therefore replace this cultivar with *Ginkgo biloba* trees with the more attractive bark. Tree pit details are going to be necessary. Root barriers should be considered.

There is no indication of how the shrub species and cultivars are to be laid out in each of the beds and borders due to the limited drawn-on information as a result of the scale of the drawing. Larger growing shrubs will inevitably end up right on the edge of the kerb growing over parking bays, etc. A written description of taller species at the rear or middle and grading down to smaller species at the front. Knee rail will be necessary to prevent people walking over and damaging the planting and the soil structure.

The LEMP addresses the ecology of the but should consider the ornamental trees and border planting in more depth, including the maintenance of hard surfaces.

Collaboration between the two disciplines is necessary. The landscape management information on Weddle Landscape Design's drawing should be broadened out with the relevant British Standards, the responsibility of trained operatives in relation to arboricultural, landscape and ecology operations with associated risk assessments and public indemnity insurance, the maintenance of hard surfaces, sports areas, play area and fences. The aims and objectives for the site as a 'place to promote fitness and wellbeing' should be clearly described i.e. to manage and maintain the site for the benefit of visitors, staff and wildlife. There should be clear direction on recycling of materials e.g. coppicing material for mulching. The use of glyphosate herbicide on ornamental areas only.

For the proposed trees there should be inspections, hand weeding, mulching, stake and tie adjustment, formative pruning and ground moisture monitoring and watering at appropriate times, all in accordance with BS 8545. It should also mention that dead, dying and diseased trees are to be replaced.

Shrubs should be pruned at the correct times to enhance flowering and the production of fruits for visual appeal and a food source for birds.

No further comment required.

Best regards

Tim

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